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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commodity Stabilization Service
Washington 25, D.C.
Soil Bank Division



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Release and Reapportionment of Acreage Allotments
as Related to the 1956 Acreage Reserve
Program of the Soil Bank Act

Under the regulations governing the establishment of acreage allotments for commodities, provision is made pursuant to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, for the release of an individual allotment to the county ASC committee for reapportionment to some other farm where there is a desire to grow the acreage. The release of allotments under the regulations is entirely voluntary and is made with the understanding that the allotment for the farm will be protected to the same extent as if the allotment had been planted, provided some of the particular commodity is grown on the farm during at least one year of the base period used for establishing the allotment.

Since allotments are based primarily on past acreage, growers who retain their allotment are advised that the allotment will be reduced if the acreage is not grown. However, the Soil Bank Act includes a provision whereby any acreage of a commodity placed in the Soil Bank is considered as devoted to that commodity.

For 1956, as in prior years, it was necessary for State ASC committees to set closing dates for releasing allotments in line with the normal planting time for the commodity in the general area. In view of pending legislation this year, farmers in many cases, as circumstances would permit, were given a last minute opportunity to suspend or withdraw the release of their allotment. This action was taken prior to

planting time in most areas.

In keeping with one of the principal purposes of the acreage reserve program - to reduce excessive supplies of agricultural commodities - compensation is made for reducing the acreage of a basic commodity below the allotment for the farm.

In the case of underplanting an allotment the Acreage Reserve Program regulations provide for the farm operator to certify that such underplanting was in anticipation of the Soil Bank Programs or was due to adverse weather conditions. Compensation for such underplanting is based upon the smaller of the normal yield for the farm or the normal yield for the tract of land designated as the acreage reserve. In the case of destruction of the crop due to natural causes or plowing under, the regulations provide for payment based upon the smaller of the normal yield for the farm or the yield as appraised by the county committee for the crop, if any, remaining on the field or tract on which destruction takes place, with a minimum compensation rate of \$6.00 per acre.

This situation illustrates one of the many difficult administrative problems encountered in our efforts to make the Acreage Reserve Program effective for 1956 crops, at a time when the planting of most crops had been completed. Farmers had to make their decisions as to whether to plant, without knowing whether there would be a program under proposed Soil Bank legislation that would offer compensation for diversion of their allotted acreage.

These problems will not arise in connection with the 1957 and future Acreage Reserve Programs, since farmers will be offered an opportunity to decide, before their crops are planted, whether they desire to participate.

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